

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5556
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 10098

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MARR, CA
SUBJECT: DECEMBER DPC: NATO AWACS

REF: STATE 286270

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN OFFICIALS ARE UNHAPPY WITH TWO-TIER
SYSTEM CALLING FOR TEN MINOR-SHARE NATIONS TO MAKE ONLY
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TOKEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND FOR CANADA TO MAKE A RELATIVELY
LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO INITIAL R AND D ON COMMON COMPUTER.
GOC PARTICIPATION IN NATO AWACS REMAINS CONDITIONAL ON
CLEAR SUPPORT BY EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES FOR PROGRAM, AND
GOC CONTENTS SUCH SUPPORT IS NOT YET EVIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED DECEMBER 2 ON DIRECTOR

(RIDDELL) AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MATHEWSON) OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS IN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (EXTAFF) TO URGE GOC SUPPORT FOR SYG LUNS' PROPOSALS ON AWACS, AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. IN RESPONSE, RIDDELL REITERATED LONG-STANDING GOC POSITION ON NATO AWACS, I.E., IT SHOULD BE A "TRULY COMMON" PROGRAM; THERE SHOULD BE AN EQUITABLE METHOD OF FINANCING; AND THERE SHOULD BE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS OF PROGRAM. RIDDELL WENT ON TO SAY THAT CANADA DOES NOT SENSE THAT THERE IS YET ADEQUATE SUPPORT AMONG EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES FOR THE PROGRAM AND, IN ABSENCE OF SUCH SUPPORT, DEFENSE MINISTER DANSON CANNOT PUT CANADIAN PARTICIPATION TO CABINET AND PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL.

3. SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT FUNDING FOR INITIAL R AND D ON COMMON COMPUTER, RIDDELL AND MATHEWSON (WHO WILL ACCOMPANY DANSON TO NATO MINISTERIAL) INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD REVIEW THIS MATTER AGAIN WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), IN VIEW OF OUR APPROACH FOR GOC CONTRIBUTION OF 285,000 DOLLARS. BOTH OFFICIALS AGREED WITH OUR VIEWS ON CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO PROGRAM OF INITIATING COMPUTER R AND D, AND WITH OUR GENERAL OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN PARA 10 OF REFTEL, BUT THEY INDICATED STRONG DISMAY THAT GOC IS BEING ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE SUCH A RELATIVELY LARGE AMOUNT AND THAT THE TEN "MINOR-SHARE" NATIONS ARE BEING ASKED TO MAKE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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TOKEN CONTRIBUTIONS OF 50,000 DOLLARS EACH. THE LATTER FIGURE, THEY REVEALED, IS THE AMOUNT DANSON WAS PROPOSING TO OFFER AT NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERIAL.

4. DEFENSE ATTACHE MADE SIMILAR APPROACH DECEMBER 2 TO DND (ANDERSON) WHO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH DANSON ENROUTE TO EUROPE THIS WEEKEND. LIKE RIDDELL, ANDERSON REMARKED THAT SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MINOR-SHARE NATIONS CALLED INTO QUESTION THEIR SUPPORT FOR NATO AWACS AND THAT, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GAIN APPROVAL OF CANADIAN PARLIAMENT FOR GOC PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. ENDERS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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